

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

VOL. XI.

JULY, 1853.

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TODD AND BOWMAN'S PHYSIOLOGY,

TWENTY PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Proceedings of the Medical Society of Pennsylvania, at its Annual Session, May 25, 1853.—This Society held its sixth annual meeting in the city of Philadelphia, on Wednesday, May 25, 1853.

At 11 o'clock A. M. the Society was called to order by the President, Hiram Carson, M. D.

On motion, Drs. W. Jewell, J. B. Luden, and P. Cassidy were appointed a committee to examine and verify the credentials of delegates. Eighty-seven delegates were present, representing fourteen counties.

On motion of Dr. Condie, the reading of the minutes of the last session was dispensed with, and the said minutes referred to a committee of three members, to examine and report any unfinished business.

The President appointed Drs. Mayburry, Worthington, and Lamb to said committee.

The roll was called.

The President then read the annual Address.

On motion of Dr. Henry Carpenter, it was Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to the President for his eloquent address, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication with the proceedings.

Dr. West presented and read the Treasurer's Report, which was, on motion, referred for examination to a committee of three, consisting of Drs. Burrowes, Wood, and Bibighaus.

Dr. Condie submitted the report of the Committee of Publication, as follows:—

The Committee of Publication beg leave to report that of the *Transactions* of the session of May, 1852, there were printed seven hundred and fifty copies . . . 750

That of these were distributed—

To county societies 500

Sold 14

Presented to medical journals and public institutions 110

Lost in transmission 12

— 636

Leaving on hand 114

Published monthly by BLANCHARD & LEA, Philadelphia, for One Dollar a year; also, furnished GRATUITOUSLY to all subscribers of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," who remit the Annual Subscription, Five Dollars, in advance, in which case both periodicals are sent by mail free of postage to the subscriber.

In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.

VOL. XI.—7

The cost of printing, engraving,
and colouring maps, and bind-
ing, was \$305 00
Postage, and other expenses of
committee 3 62½

Entire amount paid by your com-
mittee \$308 62½

There has been received from county so-
cieties the sum of one hundred and forty-
five dollars, viz.:-

Alleghany	\$10 00
Berks	10 00
Blair	5 00
Bucks	10 00
Chester	15 00
Cambria	5 00
Delaware	5 00
Erie	5 00
Lancaster	15 00
Mercer	5 00
Montgomery	10 00
Mifflin (for 1851)	5 00
Northampton	5 00
Philadelphia	30 00
Schuykill	10 00
—————	\$145 00

In addition to which the committee
have received—

From the Treasurer	135 96
From Dr. Innes, for extra copies	5 00
From Dr. La Roche, “ “	1 00
—————	\$286 96

Which deducted from the amount paid
(\$308 62½), leaves a balance due the com-
mittee of \$21 66½.

The assessments on the counties of Hunt-
ingdon and Lycoming have been paid to the
Treasurer.

The assessments on the following counties
remain unpaid:—

Lebanon	\$5 00
Mifflin (for 1852)	5 00
Perry	5 00
Susquehanna	5 00
York	5 00
—————	\$25 00

On behalf of the committee.

D. FRANCIS CONDIE,
Chairman.

On motion of Dr. H. S. Patterson, the
report was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Condie, an order was
granted on the Treasurer for \$21 66½, being

the deficiency in the account of the Com-
mittee of Publication.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was
Resolved, That the sessions of the Society
be from 10 o'clock A. M. to 1 P. M., and
from 4 to 6 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, Dr. Burnett, of
Massachusetts, was invited to a seat in the
Society.

On motion of Dr. Jackson, Dr. Spencer,
of New York, was invited to a seat in the
Society.

Dr. H. Carpenter offered the following,
which, on motion, was referred to a com-
mittee, consisting of Drs. Condie, Koehler,
and Mayburry:—

Resolved, That, under art. vi. sec. 1 of the
Constitution, the removal of a member of
a county society from his county necessarily
dissolves his connection therewith.

Invitations were received to visit the U.
S. Mint at 9 o'clock A. M., and the Girard
College at 5 o'clock P. M., to-morrow.

Dr. Stocker extended to the delegates
an invitation to visit the Institution for the
Blind.

On motion, adjourned.

May 25.—Afternoon Session.

The Society met at 4 o'clock P. M.

The roll was called, and the minutes of
the morning session read and approved.

The President submitted a note from Dr.
T. Spencer, presenting to the Society the
annual reports of the New York State Medi-
cal Society for 1852 and 1853.

On motion of Dr. Worthington, it was

Resolved, That an assessment upon the
county societies be directed for the payment
of the expenses of this session, and that the
Treasurer inform the respective societies, as
early as possible, of the amount required
from each.

The committee upon the resolution offered
by Dr. H. Carpenter, at the morning session,
made the following report:—

The committee to whom was referred a
resolution presented at this morning's
session, declaring that any member removing
without the bounds of the county of whose
society he is a member, thereby forfeits his
membership in said county, beg leave to
report—

That by the first section of article vi. of
the Constitution of the Society, it is very
evident that membership in a county society
is restricted expressly to physicians resident

within the county in which said society is located; and by carrying out this restriction, it necessarily follows that when a member of a county society removes without the limits of the county, his membership ceases. This strict construction of the law, were it carried out in practice, would, however, in many cases be productive of inconvenience, and defeat, rather than promote the great objects it is proposed to effect, by bringing within the influence of a systematic organization of the profession every regular physician throughout the State. There are very important reasons why the relationship between a county society and its members should not be severed immediately upon their removal without the limits of the county. This removal may take place to a location remote from any regularly organized medical society; or even should the removal be within the bounds of another county society in our own State, your committee believe that membership should be allowed to continue until an opportunity has been allowed to the members removing to connect themselves with the society of the county in which they locate themselves. Your committee can conceive of a physician residing in a portion of our State where his remoteness from the place of meeting of his own county society, and his proximity to the place of meeting of the medical society of an adjoining county, would absolutely preclude his attending the meetings of the first, while attendance upon the meetings of the latter would be perfectly convenient. Under such circumstances, they can see no good that can result from compelling the physician to connect himself with the society of his own county, which is equivalent to denying his membership altogether. Your committee would therefore recommend that a certain latitude be allowed to county societies in reference to terminating the membership of those who belong to them, when they shall remove without the limits of the county, as well as in regard to the election to membership of physicians residing in their immediate vicinity within a neighbouring county.

Your committee, while on this subject, would respectfully suggest that the State Society recommend to each county society to incorporate in its by-laws a provision to admit to membership any physician who may remove within its bounds, upon the presentation of a certificate, properly authen-

ticated, that he was a member in good standing of the medical society of the county from whence he comes at the period of his removal thence.

D. FRANCIS CONDIE,
JOHN G. KOEHLER,
WM. MAYBURY.

May 25, 1853.

On motion, the report was laid on the table. On motion of Dr. Worthington, it was

Resolved, That this Society adhere to a strict construction of the article of the constitution which confines membership in a county society to residents within said county.

Dr. Condie offered the following, which was, on motion, indefinitely postponed:—

Resolved, That this Society recommend to each county society to incorporate in its by-laws a provision to admit to membership any physician who may remove within its bounds, upon the presentation of a certificate, properly authenticated, that he was a member in good standing of the medical society of the county from whence he comes, at the period of his removal thence.

Dr. John P. Hiester submitted the following resolutions, on behalf of the Berks County Medical Society:—

Resolved, That the county societies of this State be urgently requested to appoint annually committees to collect samples of drugs and preparations from the dealers and manufacturers in their respective districts, to be presented to the State Medical Society at its annual sessions.

Resolved, That this Society appoint annually a committee of three to take charge of the said samples, and it shall be their duty to appoint a competent assayer of drugs to examine the same, and give an opinion on their purity and quality; and this opinion shall be presented to the Society, for publication in their *Transactions*.

Resolved, That the amount of expense incurred by the committee in carrying into effect the above resolutions shall be assessed and collected in like manner as is assessed and collected the amount for defraying the expense of publishing the *Transactions*.

On motion of Dr. J. B. Biddle, the resolutions were referred to a committee of three, to report at the next session. The Chair appointed Drs. J. B. Biddle, E. Parry, and J. Carson.

The committee appointed to examine the

accounts of the Treasurer submitted the following:—

The committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer report as follows:

Cash received by Treasurer	. \$259 51
“ paid out by “	“ 254 56
Balance on hand	. \$4 95

FRANCIS S. BURROWES,
THOMAS WOOD,
CHAS. H. BIBIGHAUS.

On motion, the report was accepted and the committee discharged.

An invitation was received from Dr. B. H. Rand, Secretary of the Academy of Natural Sciences, to visit the collection of that institution.

On motion, the invitation was accepted, and Friday, at 3 o'clock P. M., fixed as the time for said visit.

On motion of Dr. H. Carpenter, a committee of one from each county represented was appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The Chair appointed

Dr. H. Carpenter,	Lancaster Co'y.
“ C. H. Wanner,	Berks “
“ Isaac N. Evans,	Bucks “
“ J. M. Confer,	Blair “
“ George F. Horton,	Bradford “
“ Isaac R. Walker,	Chester “
“ R. K. Smith,	Delaware “
“ J. B. Luden,	Huntingdon “
“ Thomas Wood,	Lycoming “
“ A. Rothrock,	Mifflin “
“ George W. Wimley,	Montgomery “
“ Samuel Sandt,	Northampton “
“ David Gilbert,	Philadelphia “
“ John G. Koehler,	Schuylkill “

On motion, the presentation of the reports of county societies was made the order of the day for to-morrow (Thursday) morning, immediately after the reading of the minutes.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

Thursday Morning, May 26.

The Society met at 10 o'clock A. M.

The roll was called, and thirty-five members appeared.

The minutes of the afternoon session of yesterday were read and approved.

The sanitary reports of the Berks and Chester County Medical Societies were read, and, on motion of Dr. R. K. Smith, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The President submitted an invitation to visit the Academy of the Fine Arts.

On motion of Dr. H. S. Patterson, the invitation was accepted, and to-day, at one o'clock P. M., fixed as the time for said visit.

The President submitted a note from the Rev. Dr. Ducachet, inviting the members of the Society to visit the monumental statuary recently erected in St. Stephen's Church.

On motion of Dr. H. S. Patterson, the invitation was accepted, and to-morrow (Friday), at one o'clock P. M., fixed as the time for said visit.

The report of the Schuylkill County Medical Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication, together with an accompanying chart and a letter from P. W. Sheaffer, Esq.

The report of the Delaware County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Lancaster County Society was read, and, on motion, was referred, together with the accompanying geological chart, to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Blair County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Mifflin County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Huntingdon County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Atlee read a communication in relation to the Committee on Epidemics of the National Medical Association, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication, to be printed with the minutes.

On motion, adjourned.

Thursday Afternoon, May 26.

The Society met at 4 o'clock P. M.

In the absence of Dr. Patterson, on motion of Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Mayburry was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

The roll was called, and thirty members appeared.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Dr. Biddle submitted a paper on vaccination, smallpox, and varioloid, by Dr. J. M. Gemmill, of Huntingdon County, which was read, and, on motion of Dr. Turnbull, referred to the Committee of Publication, as an accompaniment to the report of Huntingdon County.

The report of the Philadelphia County Society was read by its title, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Susquehanna County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

On motion, adjourned.

Friday Morning, May 27.

The Society met at 11 o'clock A. M.

The minutes of the afternoon session of yesterday were read and approved.

Dr. Cassidy, from the Committee on Credentials, reported the credentials of the delegates from Cambria County as correct.

The Committee on Unfinished Business made the following report:—

The committee appointed to examine the minutes of the last session of the Society, report the following items of unfinished business, as, in their opinion, claiming attention:—

Item I., pp. 15, 16. Dr. Emerson's resolutions in reference to "the organization of county societies in counties where no such societies as yet exist." County societies are requested to publish the resolutions "one or more times in newspapers having the most extensive circulation in their respective localities."

Item II., p. 16. The Committee on "Gratuitous Public Vaccination" was continued, Dr. G. Emerson chairman.

Item III., pp. 11, 18. Dr. Hays's resolution, appointing a committee to devise a plan for the purpose of obtaining information in relation to epidemics as they prevail over the different zoological formations of the State. The committee consists of Drs. G. Halberstadt, H. Corson, and J. P. Hiestor.

Item IV., p. 20. Report of delegates to the American Medical Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. MAYBERRY,
WILMER WORTHINGTON,
JOHN F. LAMB.

May 26, 1853.

On motion of Dr. H. S. Patterson, the report was accepted, the committee continued, and the committees named by them called on for their respective reports.

On motion of Dr. Burrowes, it was

Resolved, That the next meeting of the Society be held at Pottsville.

The report of the Cambria County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Montgomery County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the Bucks County Society was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Walker offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Recording Secretaries to transmit to the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements of the National Medical Association, a correct list of the delegates from this Society, so that it may be received at least one week previous to the meeting of the said Association; and, also, that they shall supply each delegate with a certificate of his appointment.

Dr. West offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Committee of Publication be instructed to prefix to the forthcoming volume of *Transactions* of the Society, a note or statement to the effect that the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania does not indorse or sanction the facts or opinions contained in any address or report which may be made to them, or published by their authority.

Dr. R. K. Smith offered the following:—

Resolved, That each County Society be requested to furnish with its annual report to the State Society, a synopsis of its contents; and that said reports shall be read by their titles, a synopsis of their contents stated and referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Emerson offered the following as a substitute for the above:—

Resolved, That each County Society making a report to the State Medical Society (should such manuscript report exceed eight pages of quarto post paper), shall furnish an abstract not to exceed the number of MS. pages mentioned, which abstract shall be read, unless the reading of the entire report is called for.

On motion of Dr. Walker, both the above resolutions were indefinitely postponed.

Dr. Burrowes offered the following, which were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, Since our last meeting, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove from us our friend and professional brother, Dr.

Samuel Duffield; one who had few superiors as a father, friend, and physician; whom to know was to love; who looked, thought, and spoke always as a gentleman; in whom *cum tristibus severè, cum remissis jucundè*, was not the result of artificial accommodation, and whose removal has left a vacancy not easily filled. Therefore

Resolved, That this Society receives with unfeigned regret the intelligence of the death of their firm friend and professional brother, Dr. Samuel Duffield.

Resolved, That a copy of the above preamble and resolutions be transmitted by the Recording Secretaries to his family, with the expression of our heartfelt sympathy.

Dr. West offered the following, which were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, Since the last meeting of the Society, it has pleased Almighty God, in his wise Providence, to remove by death from our midst, Dr. Isaac Parrish, a most useful and highly-valued member of the Society; and, whereas, it is due to his memory, as well as useful to those whom he has left behind, to hold up for esteem and imitation his purity of purpose and great integrity of character, both private and professional, as well as the constant devotion and zeal exhibited in his efforts to advance the common cause of medical science, medical education, and medical ethics. Therefore

Resolved, That the members of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania have received, with feelings of unaffected sorrow, the intelligence of the death of Dr. Parrish, which occurred shortly after the last annual session of the Society; and that they desire thus to record their high estimation of his talents and personal worth, as well as their sense of the heavy loss sustained in his death by mourning friends, both in and out of the profession, and by the community at large.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolution be transmitted by the Secretaries to the family of the late Dr. Parrish, with the assurance of the deep sympathy of the Society in their bereavement.

Dr. H. Carpenter offered the following, which were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the Society deeply regret the decease of its late fellow-member and first President, Dr. Samuel Humes, of Lancaster, for whose moral worth, high pro-

fessional character, and active zeal in promoting the objects and interests of this organization, the members of the State Medical Society will ever fondly cherish his memory.

Resolved, That the Secretaries are hereby instructed to transmit a copy of the above to the friends of the deceased.

Dr. H. Carpenter, from the Committee on Nominations, made the following report, which was, on motion, accepted, and the persons therein named unanimously declared the officers of the Society for the ensuing year:—

President.—Dr. John P. Hiester, of Berks County.

Vice-Presidents.—Dr. Francis S. Burrows, Lancaster County; Dr. John H. Gemmill, Huntingdon do.; Dr. Robert K. Smith, Delaware do.; Dr. Jacob M. Confer, Blair do.

Recording Secretaries.—Dr. Henry S. Patterson, Philadelphia County; Dr. Isaac R. Walker, Chester do.

Corresponding Secretary.—Dr. Isaac Hays, Philadelphia County.

Treasurer.—Dr. Francis West, Philadelphia County.

Censors, First and Second Districts.—Drs. Wilson Jewell, Philadelphia County; William Corson, Montgomery do.; George Halberstadt, Schuylkill do.; Samuel A. Barton, Delaware do.; Samuel Thompson, Bucks do.

Third and Fourth Districts.—Drs. Thos. Wood, Lycoming County; Mordecai Massey, Huntingdon do.; A. Rathrack, Mifflin do.; Wm. W. McIlvaine, York do.; J. H. Case, Perry do.

Fifth and Sixth Districts.—Drs. C. F. Perkins, Erie County; J. M. K. Morgan, Alleghany do.; J. P. Gazzam, do. do.; Jas. Dickson, do. do.; W. Anderson, do. do.

Delegates to the American Medical Association for 1854.—Drs. Hiram Corson, Montgomery County; William Maybury, Philadelphia do.; John L. Atlee, Lancaster do.; Traill Green, Northampton; J. S. Carpenter, Schuylkill do.; Edward Wallace, Berks do.; Isaac R. Walker, Chester do.; John S. Ross, Blair do.; — Irvine, Alleghany do.

On motion of Dr. Moses B. Smith, it was *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to P. W. Sheaffer, Esq., for the letter and chart accompanying the report from the Schuylkill County Society.

Dr. Emerson, from the Committee on Public Gratuitous Vaccination, reported progress. On motion of Dr. Condie, the report was accepted, the committee continued, and Dr. J. L. Atlee added to its number.

Dr. Halberstadt, from the committee appointed at the last session, made the following report, which was accepted, and the committee discharged:—

The committee, to whom was referred the subject of drawing a plan for the purpose of obtaining information in relation to epidemics as they prevail over the different zoological formations of the State, respectfully report:—

That they have given the matter due consideration. The importance of such information as is contemplated by the resolutions, must be apparent to every one; but the obstacles that lie in the way, are to be found in the fact that the class of the profession from whom chiefly must be obtained the necessary data upon which anything like satisfactory conclusions can be based, are those engaged in the active practical pursuits of their calling, demanding more of physical than mental exertion, and conducting more or less to an apathetic feeling regarding the higher intellectual objects which legitimately come within the sphere of professional life. Hence, the information sought to be obtained is often withheld, from their indifference, or, what is as much to be deplored, from an unwillingness to devote the time and trouble requisite to the procuring and arranging the necessary material. The committee, therefore, are impressed with the belief that the only practical mode of effecting the object will be to arrange the facts presented by the annual reports of the County Societies, and thus approximate the end in view. This will be rendered more complete by the organization of future County Societies. Each county represented in the society presents a view of the prevalent diseases of the preceding year within its own limits; and, if any epidemic disease have prevailed over any particular character of surface, its geological features may be followed up into adjacent counties, and the respective reports of such counties compared. In this, such results as the resolutions contemplate, may be reached.

GEORGE HALBERSTADT,
JOHN P. HIESTER,
HIRAM CORSON.

Dr. J. P. Hiester offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That the Society earnestly request all societies, that have not yet done so, to furnish, at an early period, topographical histories of their respective counties, accompanied by charts.

Resolved, That the annual reports of the different county societies be recommended to have strict reference to the different geological formations, in order to ascertain, by a comparison of facts, how far the prevalence of epidemics and other diseases may be influenced by them.

On motion, adjourned.

Friday Afternoon, May 27.

The Society met at 4 o'clock P. M.

The roll was called, and the minutes of the morning session read and approved.

Dr. Atlee offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Committee of Publication be requested to furnish annually to the Epidemiological Society of London a copy of the published *Transactions* of this Society.

Dr. R. K. Smith offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered for the polite invitations received to visit the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Academy of Fine Arts, the United States Mint, the Laurel Hill Cemetery, the statuary in St. Stephen's Church, and the Girard College, and especially to President Allen, of Girard College, for his hospitality to the members of this Society on the occasion of their visit.

Dr. Condie offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are due to Dr. Hiram Corson, its late President, for the impartial and courteous manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the present session.

Dr. Turnbull offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the Secretaries, for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have discharged their laborious duties.

Dr. Condie, in the absence of the delegates to the National Medical Association, stated that said delegates had presented to the Association the resolutions directed by this Society at its last session, and that they

had used their best efforts to secure the adoption of the same.

On motion of Dr. B. H. Coates, it was

Resolved, That the statement of Dr. Condie be received in lieu of the report of the delegates.

Dr. Parry offered the following, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That, for the purpose of acquiring farther information in relation to kine-pock, and increasing the facilities for procuring and preserving supplies of fresh and genuine vaccine virus, this Society recommends to each of the county societies in the State to appoint a committee to collect any new and useful facts in relation to vaccination, and to report the same to a central committee (to be appointed by this Society), at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

Resolved, That the said central committee shall consist of three members, and it shall be their duty to draw up a synopsis of the reports received, and present the same to this Society at its annual meeting.

The President appointed Drs. E. Parry, P. Cassidy, and H. Carpenter said committee.

Dr. Mayburry called the attention of the Society to the resolutions of Dr. Emerson, passed at last session. (See *Transactions* of 1852, pp. 15, 16.)

On motion of Dr. Mayburry, the said resolutions were adopted, and the officers directed to give due notice of the same to the county societies.

On motion of Dr. Condie, the second resolution of the Montgomery County Society, laid on the table at the last session, was taken up, and indefinitely postponed.

The President appointed Drs. Condie, Norris, and Yardley, the additional members of the Committee of Publication, to act in conjunction with the members, *ex-officio*.

On motion of Dr. J. R. Bryan, it was

Resolved, That the President elect be requested to deliver an address at the opening of the next annual session.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, a committee was appointed to conduct the President elect to the chair.

Drs. Atlee and Mayburry, being appointed said committee, performed the duty as directed, when Dr. Hiestor addressed the Society in a few eloquent and appropriate remarks.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are due to the Committee of Arrangement of the Philadelphia delegation, for their attention in furnishing such excellent accommodations for the sessions of the Society, and for the zeal manifested to promote our comfort and pleasure.

On motion of Dr. Geiger, it was

Resolved, That, when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet in the borough of Pottsville, on the last Wednesday in May, 1854, at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Dr. Hiram Corson, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Spencer, of New York, for the volumes of the *Transactions* of the *New York State Medical Society*, presented to us by him.

On motion of Dr. Confer, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are due to Dr. F. West, Treasurer, for the faithful manner in which he has performed the duties of his office.

The minutes of this afternoon's session were read and approved.

On motion, the Society adjourned *sine die*.

HENRY S. PATTERSON, M.D.,

JOSEPH GIBBONS, M.D.,

Recording Secretaries.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Important Treasury Circular to prevent the Importation of Adulterated Drugs and Medicines.—[The profession will read with great satisfaction the following important treasury circular, and will rejoice that the present Secretary of the Treasury has decided that patent or secret medicines are subject to the same examination as other medicinal preparations]:—

To Collectors, and other Officers of the Customs, under the Act of 26th June, 1848. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, June 4, 1853.—It being represented to this Department, that much embarrassment has been experienced by officers of the customs, at some of the ports of the United States, in reference to the provisions of the act of 26th June, 1848, "to prevent the importation of adulterated and spurious drugs and medicines," it is deemed expedient, with a view to avoid future difficulties arising from misconstruc-

tions of the law, and to secure uniformity of practice at the several ports in carrying out its provisions with precision and efficiency, to furnish you with the additional instructions which follow, explanatory and in modification of the circular instructions addressed to you by the Department of the 8th July, 1848.

To avoid the recurrence of a difference of opinion between the officers of the customs as to what particular articles of commerce should be considered drugs and medicines, and as such subject to special examination by the special examiner of drugs and medicines, it is thought proper to state that, in conformity with the evident spirit and intent of the law, it is required that all merchandise used wholly or in part as medicine, and found described as such in the standard works specially referred to in the act, must be considered drugs and medicines, and that all invoices, therefore, of such articles, in whole or in part, must be submitted to the examination of the special examiner of drugs and medicines, before they can be permitted to pass the custom-house.

In the examination on entry of any medicinal preparation, the said special examiner is to unite with the appraiser.

With a view to afford a reliable guide to the examiner of drugs and medicines, as well as to the analytical chemist, on appeal, in ascertaining the admissibility of such articles under the provisions of law, founded on their purity and strength, the following list is given of some of the principal articles, with the result of special tests agreeing with the standard authorities referred to in the law, all of which articles are to be entitled to entry when ascertained by analysis to be composed as noted, viz. :—

Aloes, when affording 80 per cent. of pure aloetic extractive.

Assafetida, when affording 50 per cent. of its peculiar bitter resin, and

Assafetida, when affording 3 per cent. of volatile oil.

Bark, Cinchona, when affording one per cent. of pure quinia, whether called Peruvian, Calasaya, Arica, Carthagena, Maracaibo, Santa Martha, Bogota, or under whatever name, or from whatever place; or

Bark, Cinchona, when affording two per cent. of the several natural alkaloids combined, as quinia, cinchonina, quinidia, aricine, &c., the barks of such strength being admissible as safe and proper for medicine

and useful for chemical manufacturing purposes.

Benzoin, when affording 80 per ct. of resin, or		
“ “ “	12	benzoic acid.
Colocynth, “	12	colocynthin.
Elaterium, “	30	elaterin.
Galbanum, “	60	resin.
“ “ “	19	gum, and
“ “ “	6	volatile oil.
Gamboge, “	70	pure gamboge resin and
“ “ “	20	gum.
Guaiacum, “	80	pure guaiac resin.
Gum ammoniac, “	70	resin, and
“ “ “	18	gum.
Jalap, when affording 11 “ pure jalap resin, whether in root or in powder.		
Manna, when affording 37 per ct. of pure mannite.		
Myrrh, “	30	pure myrrh resin.
“ “ “	50	gum.
Opium, “	9	pure morphia.
Rhubarb, “	40	soluble matter, whether in root or powder; none admissible but the article known as East India, Turkey, or Russian rhubarb.

Sagapenum, 50 per cent. of resin.

Sagapenum, 30 per cent. of gum, and

Sagapenum, 3 per cent. of volatile oil.

Scammony, 70 per cent. of pure scammony resin.

Senna, 28 per cent. of soluble matter.

All medicinal leaves, flowers, barks, roots, extracts, &c., not herein specified, must be, when imported, in perfect condition, and of as recent collection and preparation as practicable.

All pharmaceutical and chemical preparations, whether crystallized or otherwise, used in medicine, must be found on examination to be pure, and of proper consistence and strength, as well as of perfect manufacture, conformably with the formulas contained in the standard authorities named in the act; and must in no instance contain over three per cent. of excess of moisture or water of crystallization.

Essential or volatile oils, as well as expressed oils used in medicine, must be pure, and conform to the standards of specific gravity noted and declared in the dispensatories mentioned in the act.

“Patent or secret medicines” are by law subject to the same examinations, and disposition after examination, as other medicinal preparations, and cannot be permitted to pass the custom-house for consumption, but must be rejected and condemned, unless the special examiner be satisfied, after due investigation, that they are fit and safe to be used for medicinal purposes.

The appeal from the report of the special examiner of drugs and medicines, provided for in the act, must be made by the owner or consignee within ten days after the said report; and in case of such appeal, the analysis made by the analytical chemist is expected to be full and in detail, setting forth clearly and accurately, the name, quantity, and quality of the several component parts of the article in question; to be reported to the collector under oath or affirmation.

On such report being made, a copy of the same will be immediately furnished by the collector to the special examiner of drugs and medicines, who, if the report be in conflict with his return made to the collector, and he have cause to believe that the appeal and analytical examination have not been conducted in strict conformity with the law, may enter his protest in writing against the reception and adoption by the collector of such report and analysis, until a reasonable time be allowed him in the preparation of his views in the case, and their submission to this department for its consideration.

JAMES GUTHRIE,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Prosecutions of Medical Men.—Within the past year several suits have been commenced and carried through against medical men for malpractice. Among those in this vicinity we may mention the trials of Dr. Hammond, of Nashua, and Dr. Sargent, of Rochester in this State, and more recently that of Dr. Kittredge, of Andover, Massachusetts. In the first case, Dr. Hammond was acquitted, not more in consequence of the ability of his counsel than the honesty and independence of the surgeon called to testify for the plaintiff. In Dr. Sargent's case we are informed that the verdict was given for the plaintiff in the face of the most explicit testimony from medical men. The same was true in Dr. Kittredge's trial, in which, as we understand it, after an injury to the arm in which there was rupture of the brachial artery, the attending surgeon was brought in guilty for causing the arm to slough off by tight bandaging. The community should be made to understand that by encouraging such prosecutions they are endangering their own safety, and surgeons will be compelled in self-defence to require beforehand a bond that they shall not be prosecuted, whatever may be the result of

the treatment. From several recent trials we feel warranted in saying that the chances are altogether better for the acquittal of an ignorant, uneducated pretender to medical knowledge, who is really guilty, than for that of an intelligent, well-educated surgeon, to whom no fault can justly be charged.—*New Hampshire Journal of Medicine.*

Report of the Weather in Philadelphia for May, 1853.—The temperature of the last month rose to 65.33 degrees, which is about two degrees above the average temperature of the same month last year, and nearly three degrees above the average mean of many years. Rains also were abundant, more or less falling on fifteen days, and amounting for the month, as measured and recorded at the Pennsylvania Hospital, to 5.173 inches. The month thus abounding in heat and moisture, the two great elements of vegetable growth, the earth is at present teeming with more than her usual promise.

Seven times, during the month, the fall of rain was attended with thunder and lightning. That which occurred at 9 o'clock, on the evening of the 23d, was the most severe; and what is worthy of remark, Quebec, L. C., was visited about the same hour with a destructive thunderstorm, by which one or more individuals lost their lives.

The prevalence of west and southwest winds during the month was quite remarkable. Out of the 31 days, the wind was westerly 25 days, and southerly 19 days; that is, on some part or the whole of that number of days the wind was at some point of the compass within these quarters. During the whole spring, also, the prevalence of these winds has been quite unusual: the days of westerly wind for the three months amounting to 76, and of southerly wind to 50 days. This, it seems highly probable, is attributable to the remarkable absence of floating ice in the neighbouring oceans.—Ordinarily, for six or eight weeks in spring, extensive fields and bergs are encountered, in lat. 42 to 44, long. 50 to 52, and are the terror of passing vessels. In 1851, ships coated along the border of these floes for days in succession, seeking a passage through or around them. And when it is remembered that their temperature is usually about 15 degrees of Fahrenheit, it will not appear improbable that they should influ-

ence the course of the wind upon our Atlantic border during the spring months. Strengthening this view, is the fact we have alluded to, that no such floces have been encountered the present season. We will add, that for the whole three spring months, there have been 20 days only in which there was any E. in the wind for any observed portion of the day; and that in the same period, the wind was easterly on seven whole days only. While in the spring of 1851, the season of extensive floces, an easterly wind prevailed 34 days; and for 19 days the wind was easterly all day.

The mean temperature of the three spring months was 54.67 degrees, which is about 4 degrees above the mean average temperature of last year.

The effect of the warm spring upon the health of our community is quite apparent in the bills of mortality; for while the whole number of deaths for the three spring months of last year was 2657, this year it was reduced to 2294, or 363 less; and this, notwithstanding an evident increase of population.

P. S.

Days of month.	THERMOMETER.			WIND—COURSE AND FORCE.		REMARKS.
	Sunrise.	2 P. M.	Méan.	Sunrise.	2 P. M.	
1	52	66	59	N. E. 3	W. by N. 2	Cloudless.
2	48	66	57	N. N. E. 2	S. W. 3	Cloudless.
3	56	78	67	S. 2	S. W. 3	Cloudy, slight shower, 7½ A. M., clear.
4	63	83	73	S. S. W. 1	S. 2	Cloudless, clear, smoky all day.
5	58	68	63	N. E. 2	E. N. E. 2	Overcast, rainy, P. M.
6	61	60	60½	N. 2	N. E. 3	Overcast (thundershower night), rainy day.
7	54	58	56	E. 3	E. S. E. 2	Clear, cloudy, slight rain.
8	51	56	53½	S. 2	S. E. 2	Overcast, rain after 1 P. M.
9	52	72	62	S. W. 2	S. W. 4	Cloudless, clear.
10	57	76	66½	S. W. ½	S. W. 3	Overcast, clear, heavy thunder-shower, 6½ P. M.
11	54	68	61	N. W. 2	W. N. W. 4	Clear, fair, cloudless.
12	56	76	66	S. W. 2	S. W. 4	Cloudless, cloudy, thundershower 6½ P. M.
13	52	64	58	N. 4	N. N. W. 3	Rainy night, clear 12 M.
14	51	72	61½	N. N. W. 1	W. by N.	Cloudless.
15	53	75	66½	S. W. 3	S. W. 3	Cloudless, fair.
16	62	80	71	S. W. 2	S. W. 4	Cloudless, cloudy.
17	69	89	79	S. W. 2	S. W. 2	Clear, fair, thundershower, 4½ P. M.
18	69	84	76½	S. W. 1	S. W. 2	Clear, cloudy.
19	66	64	65	S. W. 2	N. W. 5	Cloudy, thundershower 11½ A. M., clear.
20	49	66	57½	N. W. 5	N. W. 5	Cloudless, clear.
21	52	77	64½	S. W. 2	S. W. 3	Cloudless, clear.
22	60	80	70	S. W. 2	S. W. 4	Cloudless, clear.
23	66	83	74½	S. W. 3	S. W. 4	Fair, cloudy, thundershower 9 P. M.
24	63	63	63	N. 2	N. 2	Rainy day.
25	55	62	58½	N. 3	N. 4	Rainy day.
26	55	64	59½	W. by S. 2	N. W. 4	Fair, cloudy.
27	60	72	66	N. W. 4	N. W. 2	Clear, cloudy, clear.
28	62	84	73	N. W. 2	N. W. 2	Fair, clear.
29	66	87	76½	S. W. 1	S. S. W. 1	Cloudless, smoky.
30	64	80	72	S. W. 2	S. S. W. 4	Cloudless, smoky, cloudy, rain, with thunder and lightning.
31	59	78	68½	N. by W. 4	N. E. 4	Clear.
	58.06	72.61	65.33	2.25	3.06	Monthly mean.

University of Pennsylvania.—Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY has been elected Professor of Anatomy in place of the late Dr. Horner. Dr. Leidy's extensive acquirements as an anatomist and naturalist, and his high reputation, give every assurance that he will

worthily fill the chair, and add to the lustre of the school.

St. Joseph's Hospital.—Dr. W. M. B. PAGE has been elected one of the surgeons to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of the lamented Horner.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Accouchement of Queen Victoria—Chloroform employed.—We find the following article in the *Lancet* of May 16, 1853:—

"A very extraordinary report has obtained general circulation connected with the recent accouchement of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. It has always been understood by the profession that the births of the Royal children in all instances have been unattended by any peculiar or untoward circumstances. Intense astonishment, therefore, has been excited throughout the profession by the rumour that her Majesty during her last labour was placed under the influence of chloroform, an agent which has unquestionably caused instantaneous death in a considerable number of cases. Doubts on this subject cannot exist. In several of the fatal examples, persons in their usual health expired while the process of inhalation was proceeding, and the deplorable catastrophes were clearly and indisputably referable to the poisonous action of chloroform, and to that cause alone.

"These facts being perfectly well known to the medical world, we could not imagine that any one had incurred the awful responsibility of advising the administration of chloroform to her Majesty during a perfectly natural labour with a seventh child. On inquiry, therefore, we were not at all surprised to learn that in her late confinement the Queen was not rendered insensible by chloroform or by any other anæsthetic agent. We state this with feelings of the highest satisfaction. In no case could it be justifiable to administer chloroform in perfectly ordinary labour; but the responsibility of advocating such a proceeding in the case of the Sovereign of these realms would, indeed, be tremendous. Probably some officious meddlers about the Court so far overruled her Majesty's responsible professional advisers as to lead to the pretence of administering chloroform; but we believe the obstetric physicians to whose ability the safety of our illustrious Queen is confided do not sanction the use of chloroform in natural labour. Let it not be supposed that we would undervalue the immense importance of chloroform in surgical operations. We know that an incalculable amount of agony is averted by its employment. On thousands of occasions

it has been given without injury, but inasmuch as it has destroyed life in a considerable number of instances, its unnecessary inhalation involves, in our opinion, an amount of responsibility which words cannot adequately describe.

"We have felt irresistibly impelled to make the foregoing observations, fearing the consequences of allowing such a rumour respecting a dangerous practice in one of our national palaces to pass unrefuted. Royal examples are followed with extraordinary readiness by a certain class of society in this country."

Notwithstanding the above statement we find the following announcement in the *Association Medical Journal* of April 15:—

"Her Majesty's Accouchement—Chloroform.—On Thursday, the 7th instant, at half-past one P. M., the Queen was safely delivered of a prince. This announcement has, we feel assured, inspired among all classes feelings of interest and sincere gladness; but there are circumstances connected with the event which have likewise imparted to it no small degree of medical importance. We refer to the employment of chloroform having been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Physician in Ordinary, Sir James Clark, Her Majesty's First Physician Accoucheur, Dr. Locock, and Her Majesty's other Physician Accoucheur, Dr. Ferguson; to its having been administered by Dr. Snow; and to the fact of the Queen and the infant prince having gone on favourably from the first.

"We understand that chloroform was administered by Dr. Snow during the latter part of the labour, with very satisfactory effect; and that the Queen expressed herself as grateful for the discovery of this means of alleviating and preventing pain.

"The responsible position, and the acknowledged skill of the physicians who sanctioned the inhalation of the chloroform, the Royal Majesty of the patient, and the excellence of her recovery, are circumstances which will probably remove much of the lingering professional and popular prejudice against the use of anæsthesia in midwifery, even when sanctioned by competent authority, and induced with requisite precaution. It is for this reason that we chronicle the recent accouchement of Her Majesty as an event of unquestionable medical importance.